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3-PAPER MERGER WOULD CUT JOBS

819 in Offices Facing Loss
of Work, Guild Is Told

By DAMON STETSON

More than 800 news, advertising and office workers would lose their jobs under the planned merger of three New York newspapers.

The publishers of the papers disclosed this yesterday when they gave the Newspaper Guild a proposed table of organization for the new company.

The number of guild jobs would be cut from 1,608 on the three newspapers to 896 in the new company. The total of exempt employees — those holding executive positions who are not eligible for membership in the guild — would drop from 236 to 129.

In all, 819 jobs would be eliminated.

Loss of Editorial Jobs

The papers that plan to merge are The New York Herald Tribune, The New York Journal-American and The New York World Telegram and The Sun.

The 819 jobs in their news and editorial departments would be reduced to 516 on the morning, afternoon and Sunday newspapers that the new company plans to publish.

Negotiators for the Newspaper Guild of New York met with representatives of the publishers for more than two hours yesterday at the office of the Publishers Association of New York City. It was during this session that John Green, assistant business manager of The World Telegram and The Sun, who heads the management negotiating team, presented the proposed table of organization.

Thomas J. Murphy, executive vice president of the guild, said last night that he felt the publishers had presented the "maximum line" or "hard line." He said he did not know the extent to which they might be willing to bargain about the number of jobs in the new company.

Signed Pact Sought

He made it clear in a press conference after the meeting, however, that the guild expected to obtain a signed agreement with the new company — to be called the World Journal Tribune, Inc. — before it begins to operate.

"If they deliberately set a date for operation without full agreement," Mr. Murphy said, "the guild, as far as I'm concerned, will not work for the new company."

He said the guild negotiators had been told that the unions would be notified of the date of the merger before it was announced publicly. There has been speculation that the goal is April 11, but the publishers have refused to give a specific date.

Donald F. Turner, who heads the antitrust division of the Justice Department, said Wednesday that his division was still investigating the proposed merger.

Another possible obstacle to the merger might come from a union court move. James M. Byrne, president of New York Newspaper Printing Pressmen's Union No. 9, said through his attorney, John R. Harold, that the newspaper unions were considering joint action to seek an injunction to block the merger.

Meanwhile bargaining sessions between the various unions and the publishers of the three merging newspapers are expected to continue. The pressmen met for two hours with the publishers yesterday, and leaders of New York Typographical Union No. 6 are scheduled to meet with the management representatives at 10 A. M. today at the offices of the Publishers Association, 220 East 42d Street.